THE AVENGERS
SHOWDOWN WITH THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!
4.1
FEB
MARVEL
POP ART PRODUCTIONS

AND THERE CAME A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES DECIDED TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF AND WERE REPLACED WITH A GROUP OF UNTESTED, UNTRIED NEW RECRUITS: HAWKEYE, QUICKSILVER AND SCARLET WITCH. CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS TASKED WITH TURNING THE MEMBERS OF THIS RAGTAG TEAM INTO AVENGERS...AND BY USING THE POWER-ENHANCING ABILITIES OF CRESSIDA, A.K.A. AVENGER X, THE TEAM IS STRONGER--AND MORE POPULAR--THAN THEY EVER COULD HAVE IMAGINED.

BUT NOW CRESSIDA IS SECRETLY PUSHING THE TEAM TOWARD SELF-DESTRUCTION--AND QUICKSILVER HAS ALREADY FALLEN PREY TO HER MACHINATIONS. CAN THE AVENGERS SURVIVE BEING SABOTAGED BY ONE OF THEIR OWN?

CAPTAIN AMERICA

HAWKEYE

HEADSHOTS BY DON HECK AND FRANK GIACOIA.

THE AVENGERS

SHOWDOWN WITH THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!

SCARLET WITCH

QUICKSILVER

LETTERING BY FERRAN DELGADO AFTER SAM ROSEN.

Featuring: THE MOST INDESCRIBABLY IMPOSSIBLE BATTLE IN THE HISTORY OF PANELGRAPHIC LITERATURE... A 20-PAGE FULL-LENGTH FANTASY!

AND, NOW THAT YOU KNOW WHAT'S STRAIGHT AHEAD, WHAT'S HOLDIN' YOU BACK? FACE FRONT AND DIVE RIGHT IN, TIGER... 'CAUSE NO ONE WILL BE SEATED AFTER THE ACTION STARTS!

MARVEL'S MERRY LIVING-END LINEUP

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BARRY KITSON, PENCILER
MARK FARMER with RAFAEL FONTERIZ & DREW HENNESSY, INKERS
JORDAN BOYD with MATT YACKEY & WIL QUINTANA, COLORISTS
FERRAN DELGADO, LETTERER
BARRY KITSON & JORDAN BOYD, COVER
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AVENGERS created by STAN LEE and JACK KIRBY

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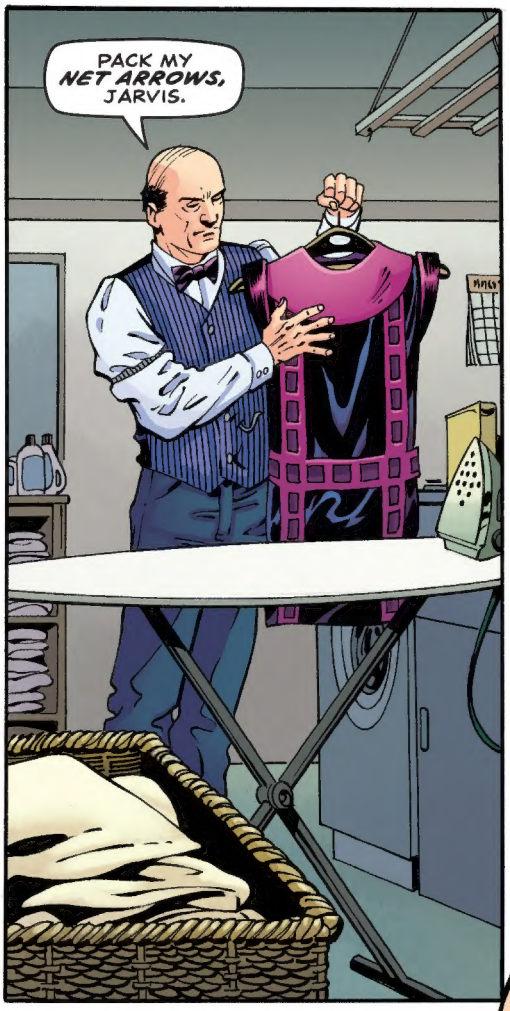
WAX MY BOWSTRINGS, JARVIS.


PACK MY NET ARROWS, JARVIS.

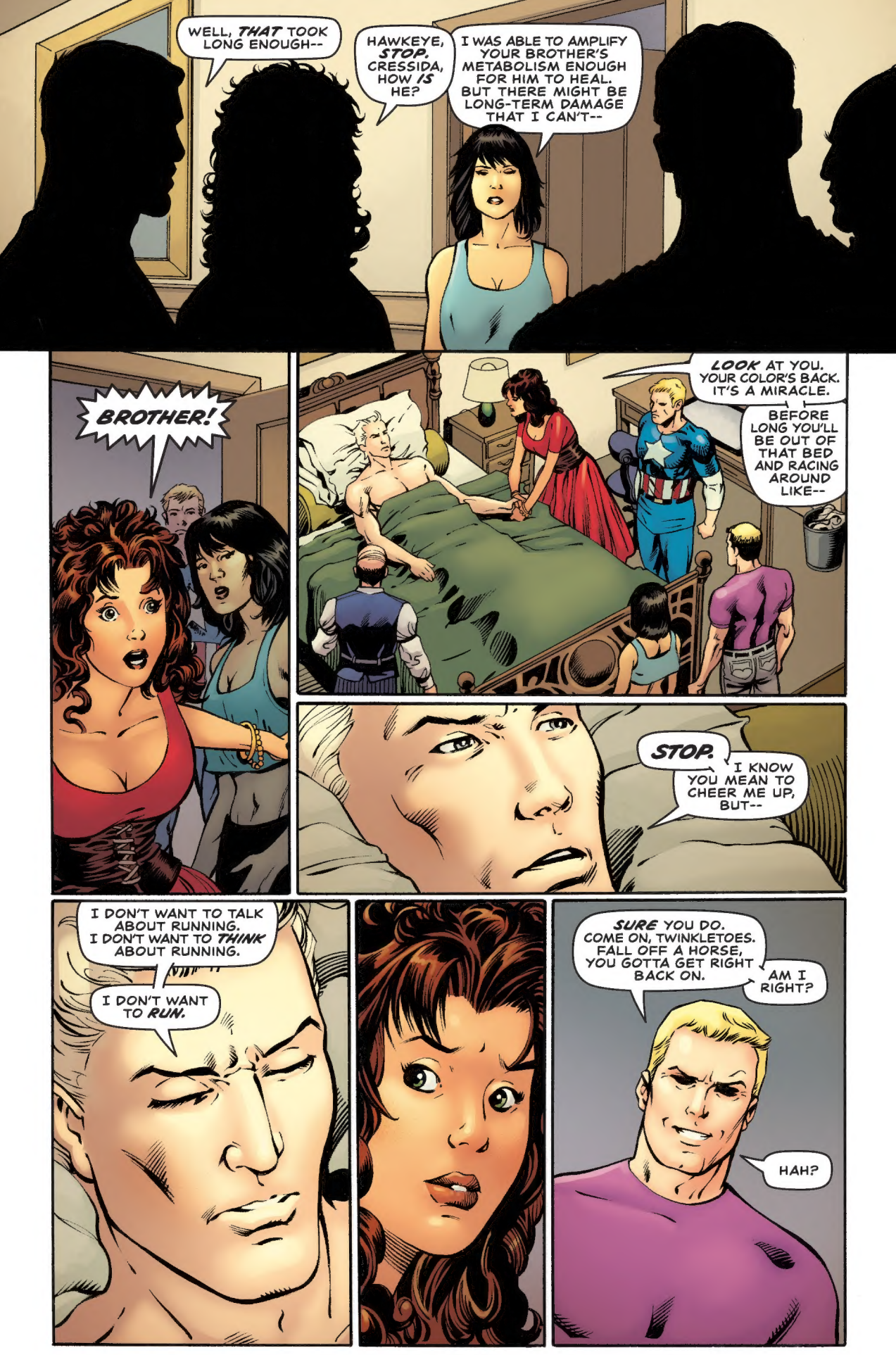
ITCHING POWDER
FLUFF MY FEATHER FLETCHINGS, JARVIS.

FILL MY GAS ARROWS, JARVIS.

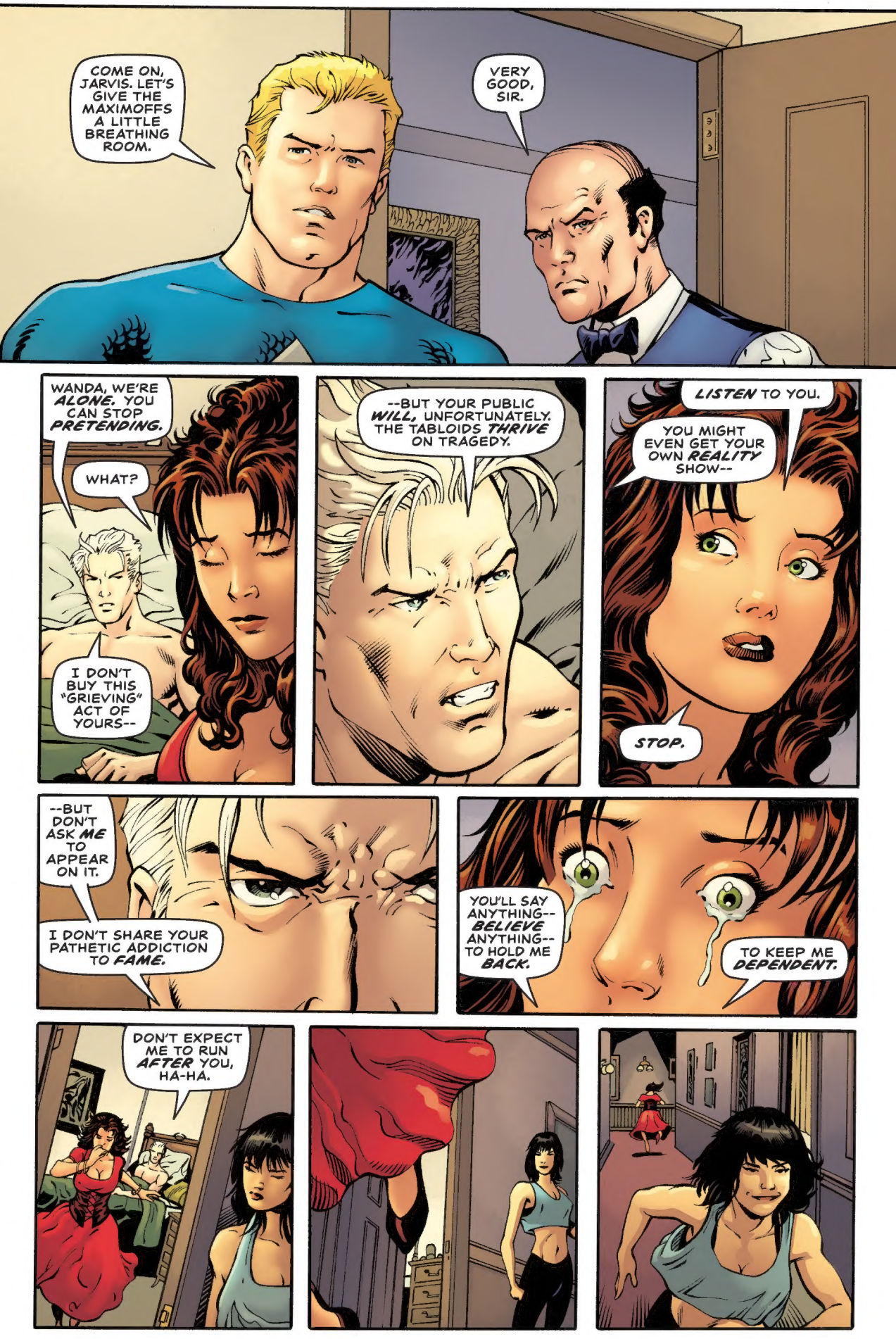
AVENGED.

EAAAAGH!!

THAT SOUNDED LIKE A MAN BEING *TORTURED.* ANYONE GET A FIX WHERE IT *CAME* FROM?
FRONT DOOR, GRAMPS. NEXT TIME, USE YOUR *EAR HORN.*
NO.
PIETRO.
WHAT HAPPENED?
RIGHT BEFORE HE WENT INTO SHOCK, HE *INSISTED* ON BEING BROUGHT HERE. *INSISTED.*
WHAT. HAPPENED?
BROKEN LEGS, MA'AM.
BOTH OF THEM? OH, PIETRO...
LET ME HELP HIM, WANDA. EVERYONE LEAVE US. PLEASE.
CRESS... CRESSIDA.


WELL, THAT TOOK LONG ENOUGH--
HAWKEYE, STOP. CRESSIDA, HOW IS HE?
I WAS ABLE TO AMPLIFY YOUR BROTHER'S METABOLISM ENOUGH FOR HIM TO HEAL. BUT THERE MIGHT BE LONG-TERM DAMAGE THAT I CAN'T--
BROTHER!
LOOK AT YOU. YOUR COLOR'S BACK. IT'S A MIRACLE.
BEFORE LONG YOU'LL BE OUT OF THAT BED AND RACING AROUND LIKE--
STOP.
I KNOW YOU MEAN TO CHEER ME UP, BUT--
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT RUNNING. I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT RUNNING.
I DON'T WANT TO RUN.
SURE YOU DO. COME ON, TWINKLETOES. FALL OFF A HORSE, YOU GOTTA GET RIGHT BACK ON.
AM I RIGHT?
HAH?

GET--
KRAASH!
--OUT!
I WON'T TAKE ADVICE FROM A THIEVING CARNY!
I'VE NOT SUNK THAT LOW!
YOU SHOULD GET OUT, CLINT. MAKE A NIGHT OF IT. GIVE PIETRO TIME TO FEEL BETTER, ALL RIGHT?
I GUESS.


COME ON, JARVIS. LET'S GIVE THE MAXIMOFFS A LITTLE BREATHING ROOM.
VERY GOOD, SIR.
WANDA, WE'RE ALONE. YOU CAN STOP PRETENDING.
WHAT?
I DON'T BUY THIS "GRIEVING" ACT OF YOURS--
--BUT YOUR PUBLIC WILL, UNFORTUNATELY. THE TABLOIDS THRIVE ON TRAGEDY.
LISTEN TO YOU.
YOU MIGHT EVEN GET YOUR OWN REALITY SHOW--
STOP.
--BUT DON'T ASK ME TO APPEAR ON IT.
I DON'T SHARE YOUR PATHETIC ADDICTION TO FAME.
YOU'LL SAY ANYTHING--BELIEVE ANYTHING--TO HOLD ME BACK.
TO KEEP ME DEPENDENT.
DON'T EXPECT ME TO RUN AFTER YOU, HA-HA.

LOWER MANHATTAN.
I DON'T SEE HOW YOU THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK.
CASTING. IF ANYONE CAN SELL THIS, IT'S THE ACROBAT!

AFTER ALL, YOU DID ONCE IMPERSONATE CAPTAIN AMERICA.* NOT AN EASY PERFORMANCE, I IMAGINE.
NO, IT WASN'T--
*AS SEEN IN STRANGE TALES #114. --TOM

--BUT THE CAPTAIN AND I DID HAVE SOME OVERLAPPING SKILLS. I DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT BOWS AND ARROWS.
YOU NEED TO START LISTENING. DIDN'T I PROMISE A BONUS ON TOP OF THE TAKE?

THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE ANY TAKE. I TOLD YOU, I'M NO ARCHER.
JUST BE YOURSELF, FAST AND AGILE AND VICIOUS--

--AND YOUR BONUS WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I FEEL-- POWER. BUT HOW? WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?

YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW.
HOMELESS
PLEASE

WHAT?
I ACCEPTED YOU AS A MEMBER OF THIS TEAM. I PUT UP WITH YOUR PETTY INSULTS. I EVEN WENT TO BAT FOR YOU.
CAP, TAKE IT EASY. WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
NEW YORK BULLETIN
AVENGER RAID JEWELRY STOR
See the shocking pictures insi
CAUGHT ON CCTV
BETRAYAL.
THE STIPEND TONY STARK PROVIDES ISN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU? YOU MISS THE OLD DAYS?
DAILY
ONCE A THIEF, ALWAYS A THIEF
FINEST 1890 JEWELS &
WHAT THE--? THIS IS CRAZY! IT'S A PUT-UP, CAP! SOMEONE DRESSED LIKE ME!
AND AS GOOD AT ARCHERY? READ THE ARTICLE!

BUT I'M NOT ANGRY WITH YOU. LEOPARDS, SPOTS, ETC. I'M MAD AT MYSELF.
EVERYONE WARNED ME NOT TO TRUST YOU. BUT AS MUCH AS I TEND TO GIVE THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, THIS TIME, IT BACKFIRED.

THIS IS A FRAME JOB AND I'LL PROVE IT!
MEANWHILE, EVER HEAR OF PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE?! THE RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED?! DUE PROCESS?!
I GUESS I HAVE TO SIT YOU DOWN AND EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF THOSE COLORS YOU'RE ALL WRAPPED UP IN!

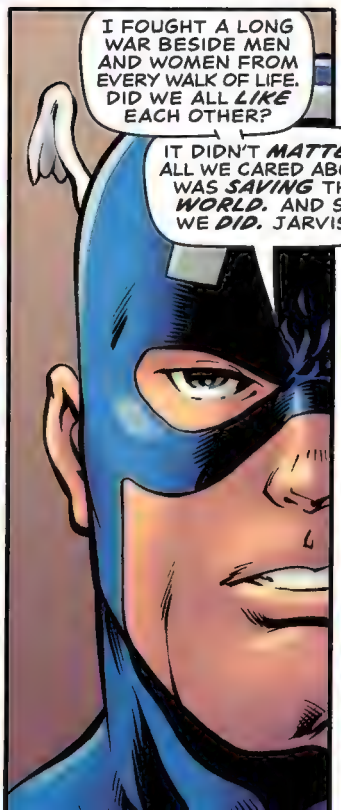
YOU DARE LECTURE ME ABOUT THE FLAG?!
WHILE YOU DRAG IT THROUGH MUD?!
IF PEOPLE DON'T TRUST THE AVENGERS, THEY WON'T TRUST ME!
IF THEY DON'T TRUST ME, IT REFLECTS ON THIS ENTIRE COUNTRY!

RIGHT, GRAMPS. YOU'RE THE FLAG AND THE FLAG'S YOU. WHILE YOU GET FOLDED AND PUT AWAY--
--I'M GOING TO GO CATCH THE CROOK WHO FRAMED ME, AND THEN I'LL HIT THE ROAD. TO HELL WITH THIS GIG, AND TO HELL WITH YOU.

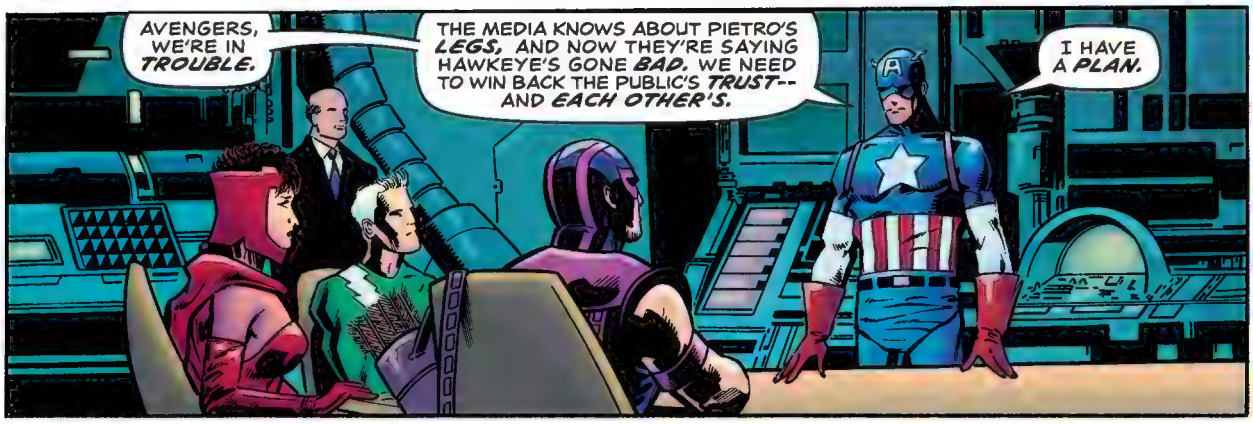
CLINT!
WAIT!
WHAT? LET HIM GO. HE DOESN'T WANT US.

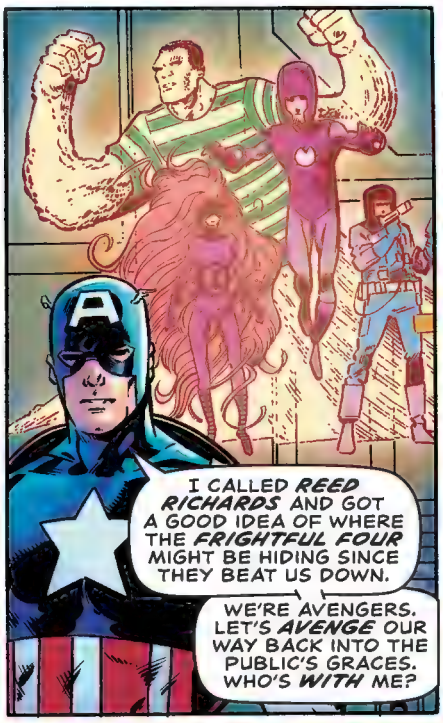
CAN YOU BLAME HIM, CRESSIDA?
CLINT, I HANDLED THAT POORLY. I'M SORRY. CAN YOU JUST STOP AND LISTEN A MINUTE?
...
A MINUTE.

THIS TEAM... IT'S SUDDENLY NOT THE SAME AS THE ONE WE WERE BUILDING. SOMETHING'S OUT OF WHACK, AND IT'S ALL FALLING APART.
RIGHT, CRESSIDA?
SOMETIMES... PEOPLE JUST DON'T GET ALONG FOR GOOD REASONS.


I FOUGHT A LONG WAR BESIDE MEN AND WOMEN FROM EVERY WALK OF LIFE. DID WE ALL LIKE EACH OTHER?
IT DIDN'T MATTER. ALL WE CARED ABOUT WAS SAVING THE WORLD. AND SO WE DID. JARVIS--

--PLEASE GATHER PIETRO AND WANDA, AND JOIN US IN THE MEETING ROOM.
PROUDLY, SIR.

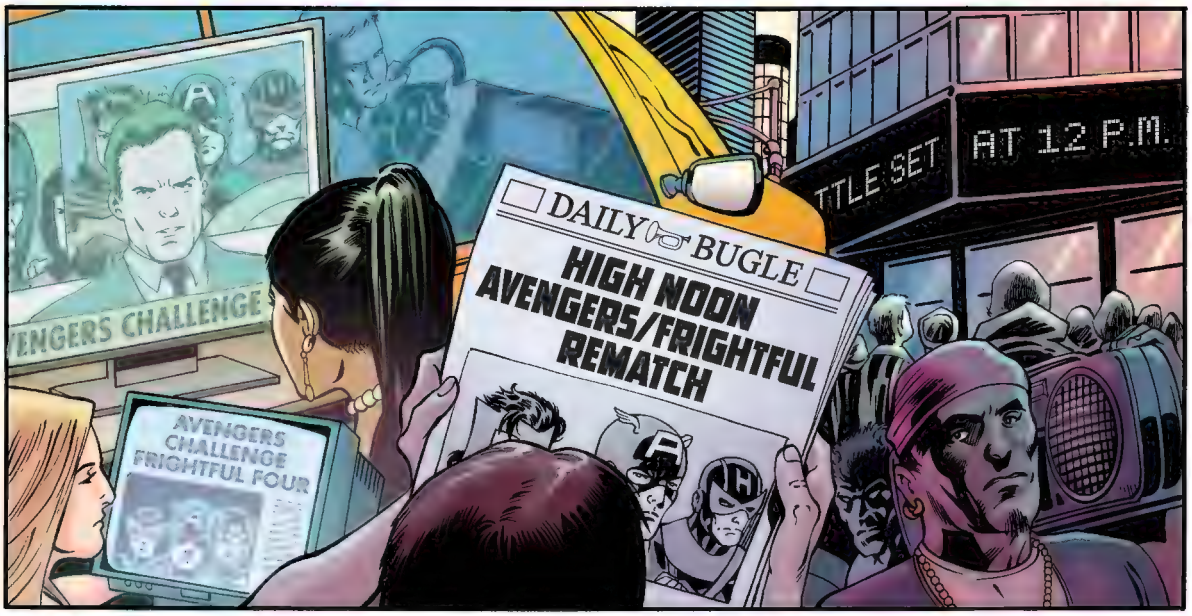

AVENGERS, WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
THE MEDIA KNOWS ABOUT PIETRO'S LEGS, AND NOW THEY'RE SAYING HAWKEYE'S GONE BAD. WE NEED TO WIN BACK THE PUBLIC'S TRUST-- AND EACH OTHER'S.
I HAVE A PLAN.


I CALLED REED RICHARDS AND GOT A GOOD IDEA OF WHERE THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR MIGHT BE HIDING SINCE THEY BEAT US DOWN.
WE'RE AVENGERS. LET'S AVENGE OUR WAY BACK INTO THE PUBLIC'S GRACES. WHO'S WITH ME?

PIETRO? NO?

GO EASY ON MY BROTHER, CAPTAIN. HIS RUNNING DAYS ARE OVER.
I FEAR NOTHING CAN BE DONE FOR SO DEEP A TRAUMA.

ALL RIGHT. AVENGERS--
OR WHAT'S LEFT OF US--
ASSEMBLE.

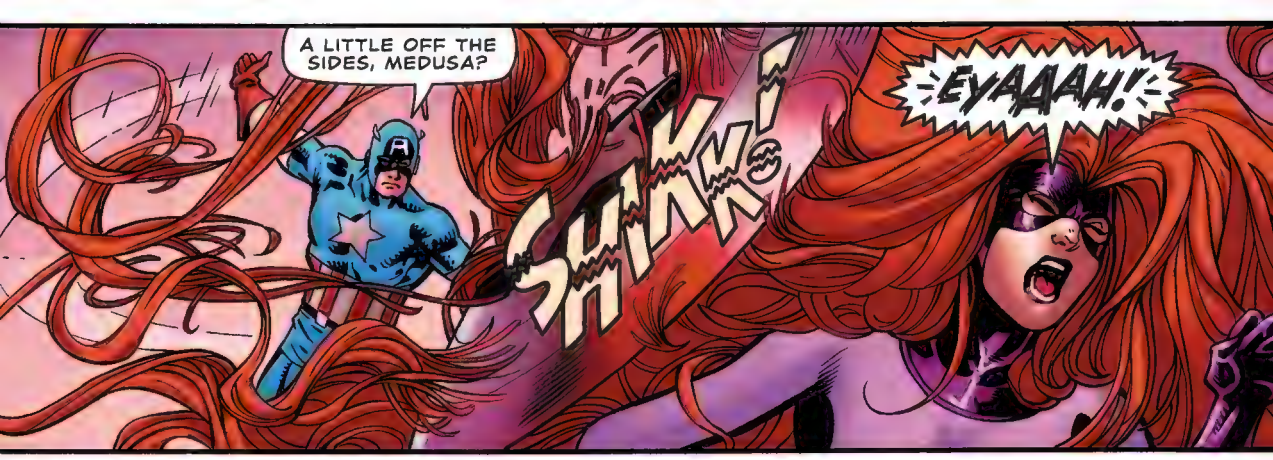

DAILY BUGLE
HIGH NOON AVENGERS/FRIGHTFUL REMATCH
AVENGERS CHALLENGE FRIGHTFUL FOUR
ENGERS CHALLENGE
TTLE SET
AT 12 P.M.

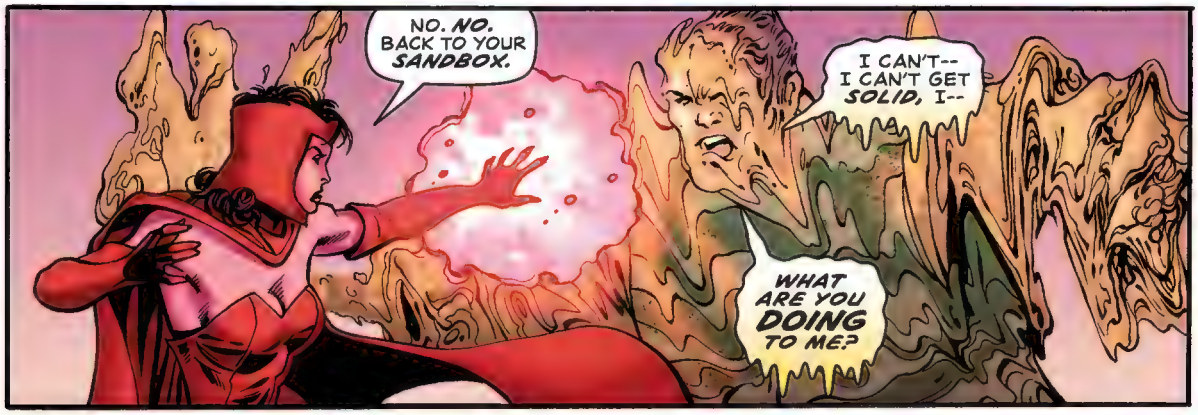
WHRUNCH!

WIZARD, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO LAND SO VIOLENTLY. SOMEONE COULD HAVE BEEN--
KILLED?
GIVE IN TO IT, MEDUSA. ON THIS DAY, IN THIS BATTLE, THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR--
--WILL TAKE LIVES.
AMEN TO THAT.

ALL RIGHT, AVENGER X.
ENERGIZE US.
THE SWEEP
BEST MUSIC HOTTEST SOUND
DONE, CAPTAIN.
GOOD. NOW REMEMBER, WITHOUT NATURAL DEFENSES YOU NEED TO STAY WELL AWAY FROM THE FRAY.
AND TO THE REST OF YOU--
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

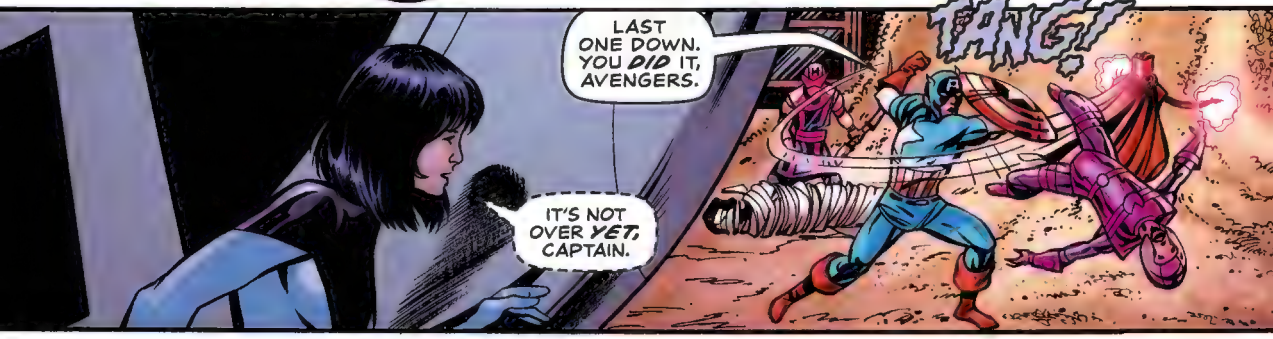
YOU'RE THE SANDMAN, RIGHT?
YEAH, DUH.
THEN GO TO SLEEP.
WHOUPP!
SP-TANG!
I'M GROUNDING YOU, WIZARD.
MY ANTI-GRAV DISC! ALL OF THAT COMPLEX AND INTRICATE WORK--
--COULDN'T BE EASIER TO TAKE APART.
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS ON? STEROIDS? YOU'RE EASIER TO BEAT THAN THIS...!
WHEN DO YOU START TRYING?
FLASP!


A LITTLE OFF THE SIDES, MEDUSA?
SHIKK!
EYAAAH!

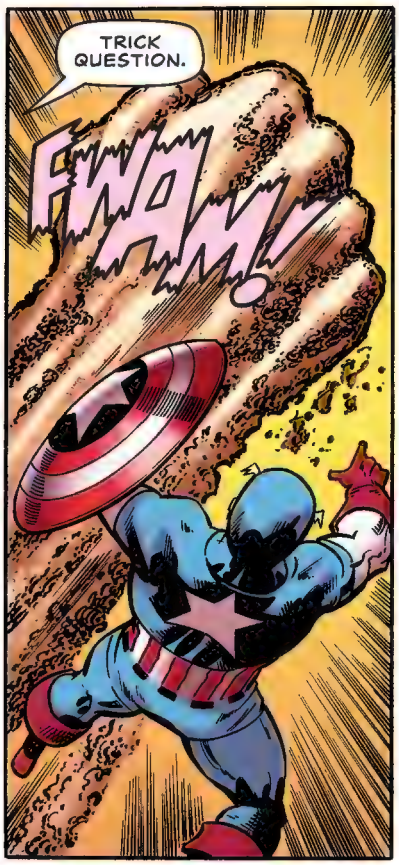

NO. NO. BACK TO YOUR SANDBOX.
I CAN'T-- I CAN'T GET SOLID, I--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?

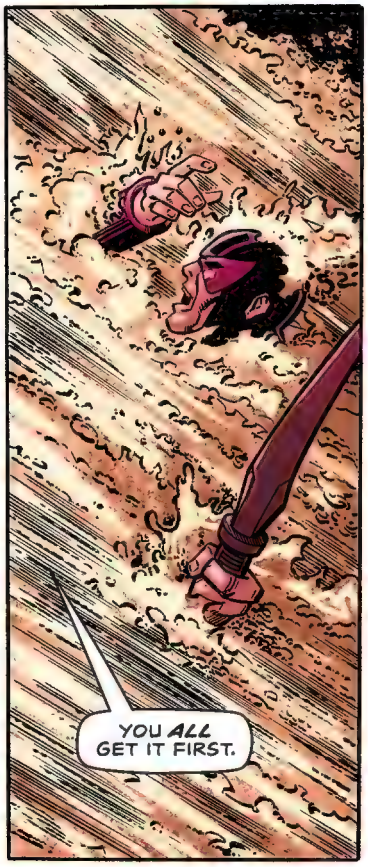
HOLD STILL, SQUIRTBOY!
--DRAMATIC PICTURES, LIVE FROM THE SCENE.
I'VE COVERED A LOT OF THESE, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN A BATTLE SO LOPSIDED.
THE AVENGERS ARE BARELY WORKING UP A SWEAT, AND EVEN CRACKING JOKES.

STOP! OKAY!
THWIK!
THWIK!
THWIK!
IT'S OVER, YOU BEAT US!
DO YOU HAVE TO BE JERKISH ABOUT IT?

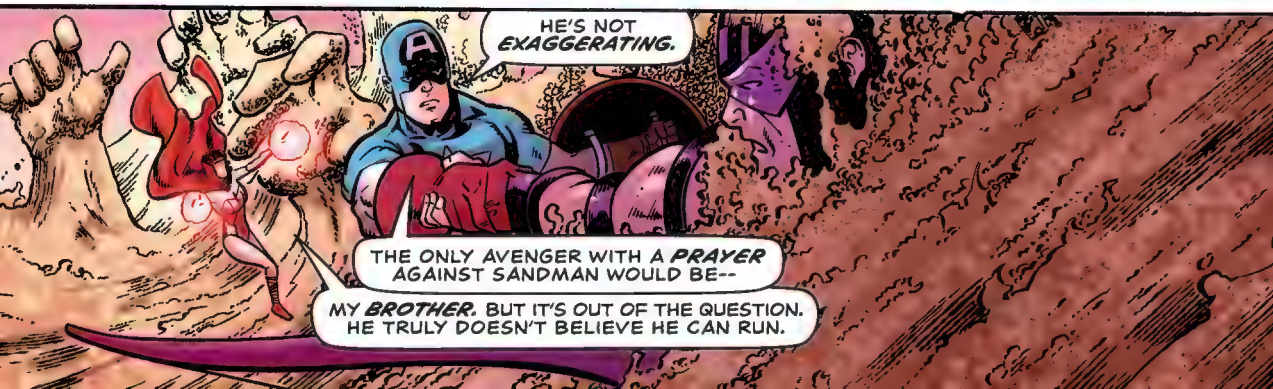

LAST ONE DOWN. YOU DID IT, AVENGERS.
IT'S NOT OVER YET, CAPTAIN.
TANG!

NOT UNTIL I SAY IT IS.
WHOA! THE HELL HAPPENED? I FEEL GREAT! STRONGER THAN EVER.
WHO WANTS IT FIRST?

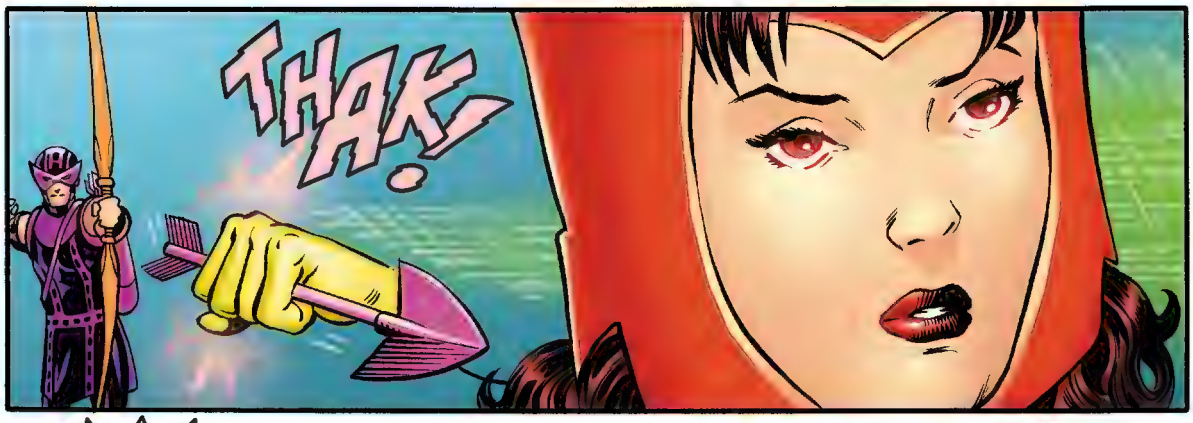

TRICK QUESTION.
FWAM!

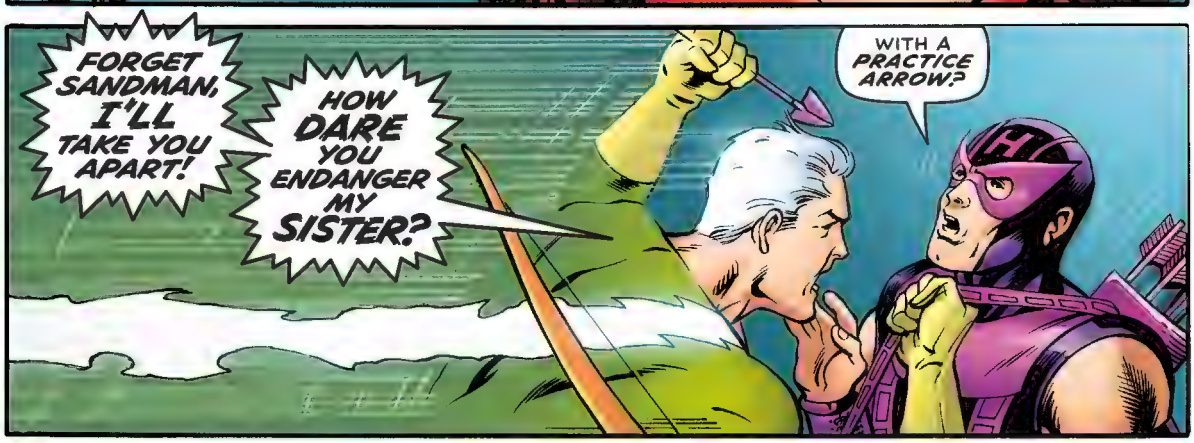

YOU ALL GET IT FIRST.

I FEEL POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BURY THE WHOLE CITY!

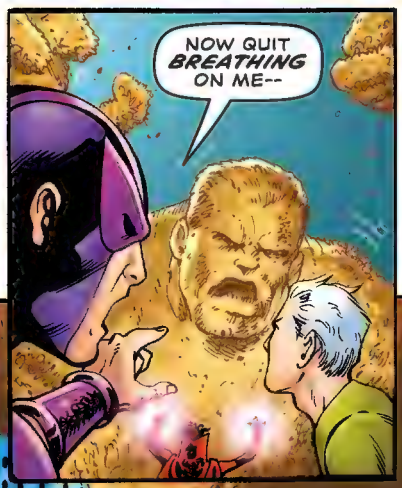

HE'S NOT EXAGGERATING.
THE ONLY AVENGER WITH A PRAYER AGAINST SANDMAN WOULD BE--
MY BROTHER. BUT IT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION. HE TRULY DOESN'T BELIEVE HE CAN RUN.

I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING TO GET HIM TO FACE HIS FEARS, BUT IT'S NO USE!
HEY, KID! THAT'S A LIVE FEED, RIGHT?
YEAH!
COOL.

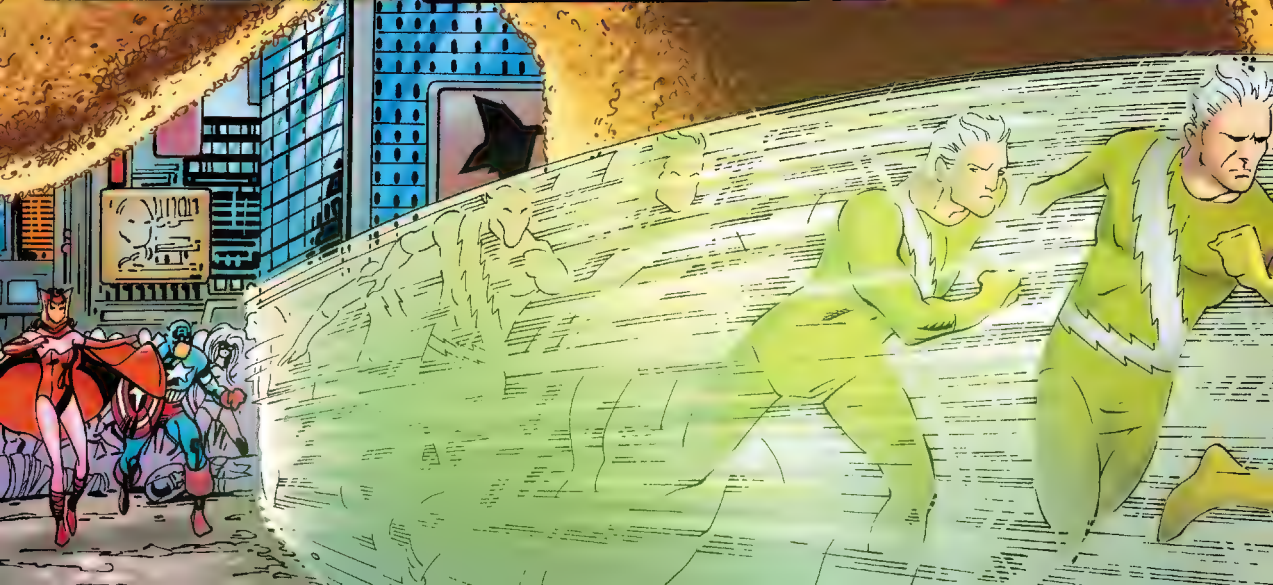

THAK!


FORGET SANDMAN, I'LL TAKE YOU APART!
HOW DARE YOU ENDANGER MY SISTER?
WITH A PRACTICE ARROW?

SWAP
LOOK. BALSA WOOD. TONS MORE DELICATE THAN SAY, HMM, I DON'T KNOW, LEGS.


NOW QUIT BREATHING ON ME--

--AND GO GET HIM!



WAY TO GO, MEEP-MEEP. UNLESS GLASSMAN WANTS TO EAT A HAMMER-ARROW--
EVEN HE IS TOO SMART FOR THAT. IT'S OVER. WE WON.
NOT YET.
SP-TANG!
CHUT!
WHY DID YOU SURGE SANDMAN'S POWER, CRESSIDA? AND DID YOU THINK WE WERE TOO STUPID TO NOTICE?
FRANKLY, CAPTAIN...
YES.

BUT DON'T BE SO PLEASED THAT YOU FIGURED ME OUT.
YOU STILL DON'T HAVE THE FAINTEST CLUE ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU OWE ME.
FOR WHAT? THE POWERS?
FOR PAST SINS. I WANTED TO BREAK THE AVENGERS IN SECRET FOR REASONS YOU CAN'T EVEN GUESS--
--BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE EXPOSED ME--
KLAAK!
KRAAK!
SHLUK!
FLUTCH!

--I'M JUST AS HAPPY TO DESTROY YOU IN PUBLIC!
TO BE CONCLUDED!

ON SALE in MARCH!

SURE TO BE ONE OF THE MOST TALKED-ABOUT ISSUES OF ALL!!

Here's Why...

AVENGER X ISN'T WHO SHE'S BEEN PRETENDING TO BE!

WILL THE REST OF THE AVENGERS LEARN THE **TRUTH** ABOUT HER IN TIME TO PREVENT DISASTER?

DON'T COUNT ON IT.

20 PAGES OF SUPER THRILLS!

DON'T MISS: THE *SHOCKING* CONCLUSION TO THE TALE OF THE ORIGINAL NEW AVENGERS!

ANOTHER WINNER FROM THE TOP-RANKING MARVEL COMICS GROUP!!

LETTERING BY FERRAN DELGADO AFTER ARTIE SIMEK.